

Case 3147

***Hydroporus discretus* Fairmaire & Brisout in Fairmaire, 1859 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of *Hydroporus discretus* Fairmaire & Brisout in Fairmaire, 1859 for a Palaearctic diving beetle. It is threatened by *H. neuter* Fairmaire & Laboulbène, 1854, a name which has only been used once since 1887, by Ádám (1996).

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; DYSTICIDAE; *Hydroporus*; *Hydroporus discretus*; *Hydroporus neuter*; diving beetles; Europe; Palaearctic.

1. Fairmaire & Laboulbène (1854, p. 205) established the name *Hydroporus neuter* for a species of aquatic beetle from the French Haute-Pyrénées. The original specimens are in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

2. The name *Hydroporus discretus* was published by Fairmaire & Brisout in Fairmaire (1859, p. 28) for an aquatic beetle from Marly, Bois de Boulogne, France. The original specimens are in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. It has been used as a valid name since its publication.

3. Before *Hydroporus discretus* was established the name *H. neuter* was used by Clark (1855, p. 4862), Jacquelin du Val (1857, p. 35) and Kraatz & Kiesenwetter (1859, p. 16).

4. Afterwards both names *Hydroporus neuter* and *H. discretus* were used as valid by Schaum (1862, p. 17), Calwer (1869, p. 79), Branden (1885, pp. 52, 58) and Fowler (1887, p. 185), who treated them as separate species, as had Fairmaire himself. However, Sharp (1882, p. 460) realised that the taxa were very closely related and might prove to be the same species.

5. Following Sharp's (1882) work, a number of authors considered *Hydroporus neuter* to be a junior synonym of *H. foveolatus* (Heer, 1839): Ganglbauer (1892, p. 475), Heyden, Reitter & Weise (1906, p. 117), Jakobson (1908, p. 425), Reitter (1908, p. 217) and Fuente (1921, p. 78). Other authors considered the name to be a junior synonym of *H. nivalis* (Heer, 1839): Gemminger & Harold (1868, p. 437), Schaum & Kiesenwetter (1868, p. 68) and Gozis (1914, p. 176). All other authors, particularly since Fuente (1921, p. 78), used *H. discretus* as valid, either citing *H. neuter* as a synonym or not mentioning the latter name (see para. 8).

6. Balke & Fery (1993, p. 95) reviewed the original specimens of *Hydroporus neuter* and *H. discretus* and designated lectotypes for both nominal species. The original specimens of *H. neuter* were found gummed onto a single piece of card which is labelled 'neuter', 'Pyr. Pande', '*Hydrop. neuter* Fairm., Pyr. Pandellé' by Dufour, and 'Muséum Paris, Coll. Léon Dufour, 1899'; the specimen on the left was designated as the lectotype and the one on the right as paralectotype. Both specimens were found

to be seriously damaged and sex determination was impossible. Three original specimens of *H. discretus* were also found gummed to a single piece of card which is labelled 'Boulogne, n. sp.' by Fairmaire, and 'Muséum Paris, 1906, Coll. Léon Fairmaire'. The specimens were separated and labelled as lectotype (a male) and paralectotypes (two females) by Balke & Fery (1993, p. 95). By critical examination of the remaining diagnostic characters they considered that the original specimens of the two nominal taxa represented the same species. Furthermore, they suggested that the name *H. discretus* should be conserved and *H. neuter* be suppressed and that the case should be referred to the Commission. However, they did not actually submit an application.

7. Ádám (1996, p. 59) resurrected the name *Hydroporus neuter* for the species in his Hungarian checklist. To my knowledge he is the only author during the 20th century who recorded *Hydroporus neuter* as a valid name and treated *H. discretus* as a junior subjective synonym of it. Ádám did not mention Balke & Fery's (1993) publication.

8. With the exception of Ádám (1996) the name *Hydroporus discretus* has been in continuous use since Sharp (1882). Examples include Seidlitz (1887), Schaufuss (1916), Sainte-Claire Deville (1935); some recent authors are Galewski (1976), Franciscolo (1979), Rico, Perez & Montes (1990) and Nilsson & Holmen (1995). A list of 16 additional references has been given to the Commission Secretariat. No one has followed Ádám (1996) in the use of *H. neuter*.

9. I now propose that prevailing and long standing usage of the name *Hydroporus discretus* be conserved by suppressing the almost never used name *H. neuter*.

10. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the name *neuter* Fairmaire & Laboulbène, 1854, as published in the binomen *Hydroporus neuter*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *discretus* Fairmaire & Brisout in Fairmaire, 1859, as published in the binomen *Hydroporus discretus*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *neuter* Fairmaire & Laboulbène, 1854, as published in the binomen *Hydroporus neuter* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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